

# THE BELGIAN HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

Study day “health information and policy”

Brussels – 10.06.2022

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# BHIS in a nutshell

- Cross-sectional survey, organized in 1997, 2001, 2004, 2008, 2013, 2018, **2023**
- Commissioned by federal, regional and communal authorities
- Pre-fixed number of participants (2023: 4,100 Flemish Region, 3,000 Brussels Region, 3,500 Walloon Region, 700 oversampling German Community)
- Directed towards total population (no age limits, institutionalized people included)
- Multi-stage, stratified clustered sample of households
- Face-to-face interview with max. 4 household members + auto-questionnaire (15 years +)
- Content: health status, lifestyle, medical consumption, prevention

# Rationale of BHIS

BHIS is an instrument designed to provide evidence for a health policy

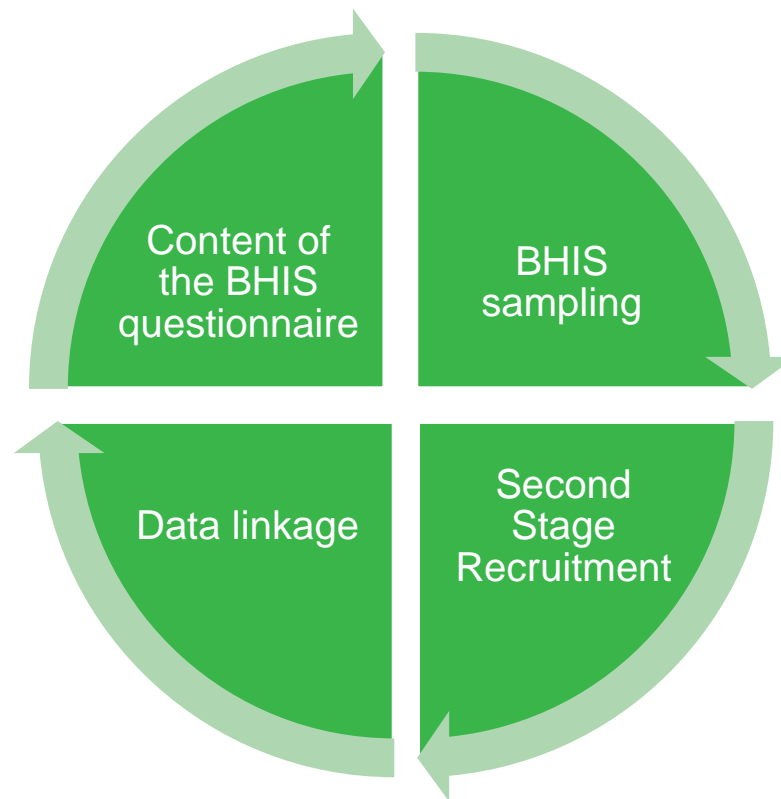
Development of (the content of) the BHIS in close collaboration with the commissioners

Scientific character of the BHIS is supervised by a Scientific Steering Committee

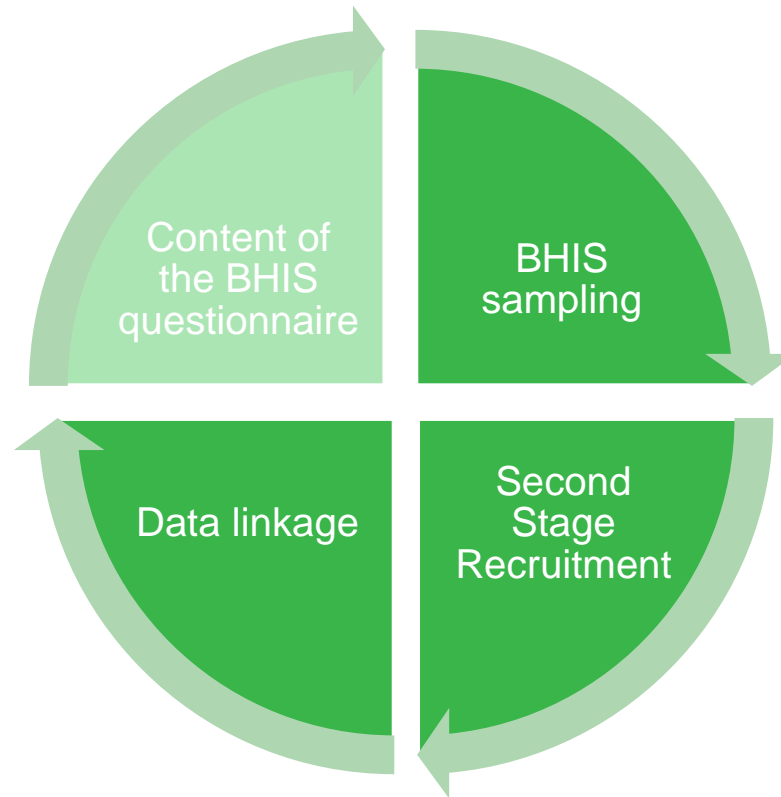
Usefulness of the BHIS to be evaluated by its use in the development of a health policy

Domains addressed in the BHIS adapted to the wishes of the stakeholders

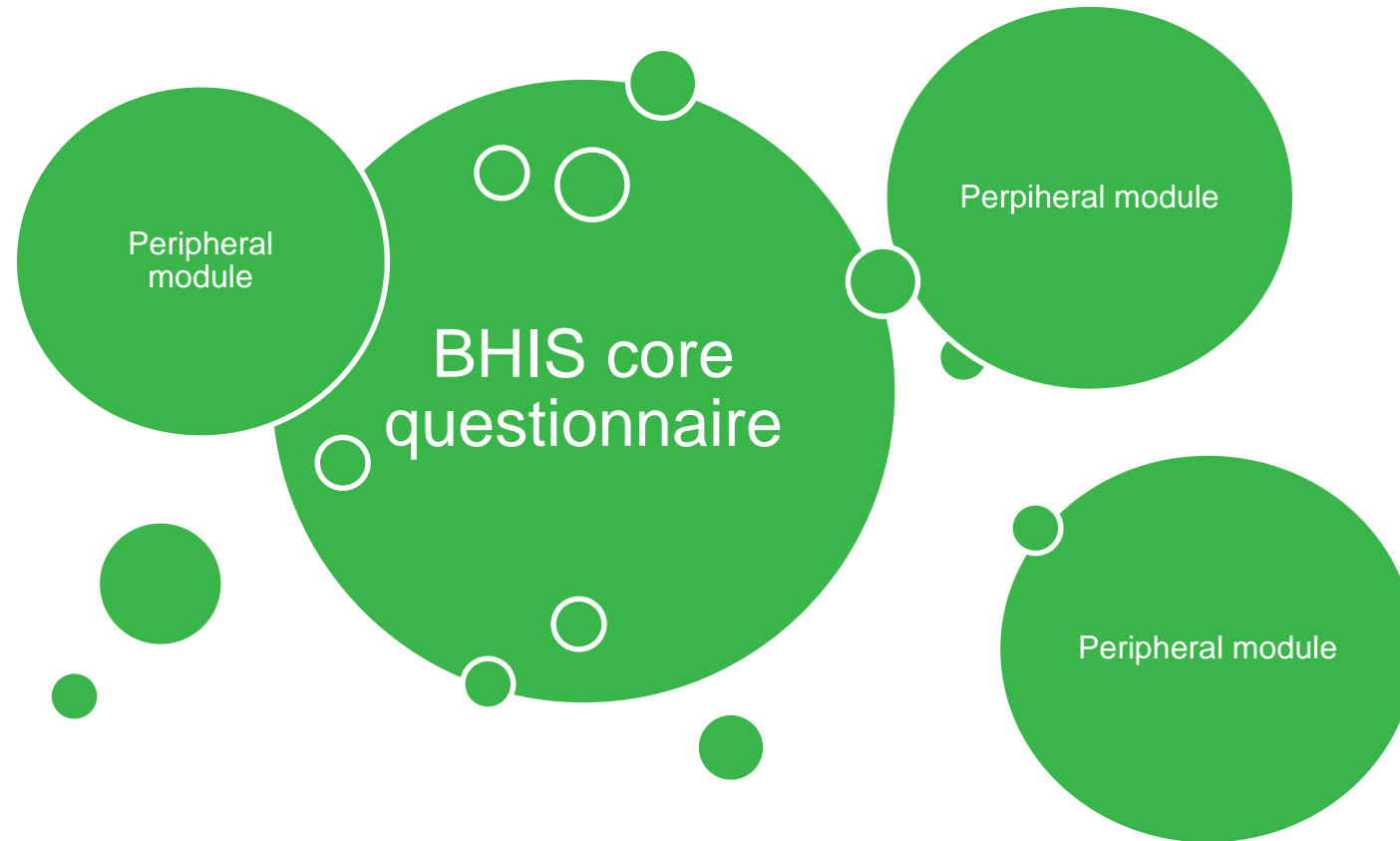
# BHIS in a glance



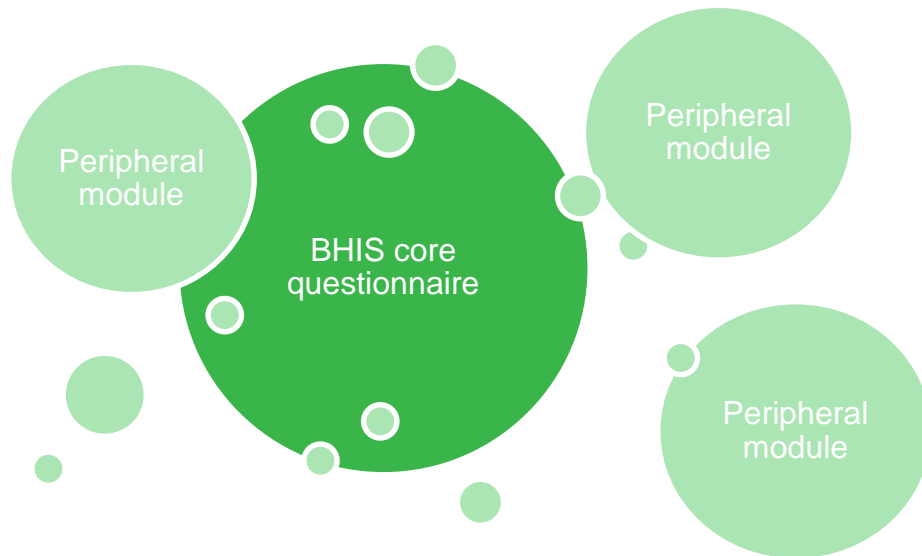
# Content of the BHIS questionnaire



# Content of the BHIS questionnaire

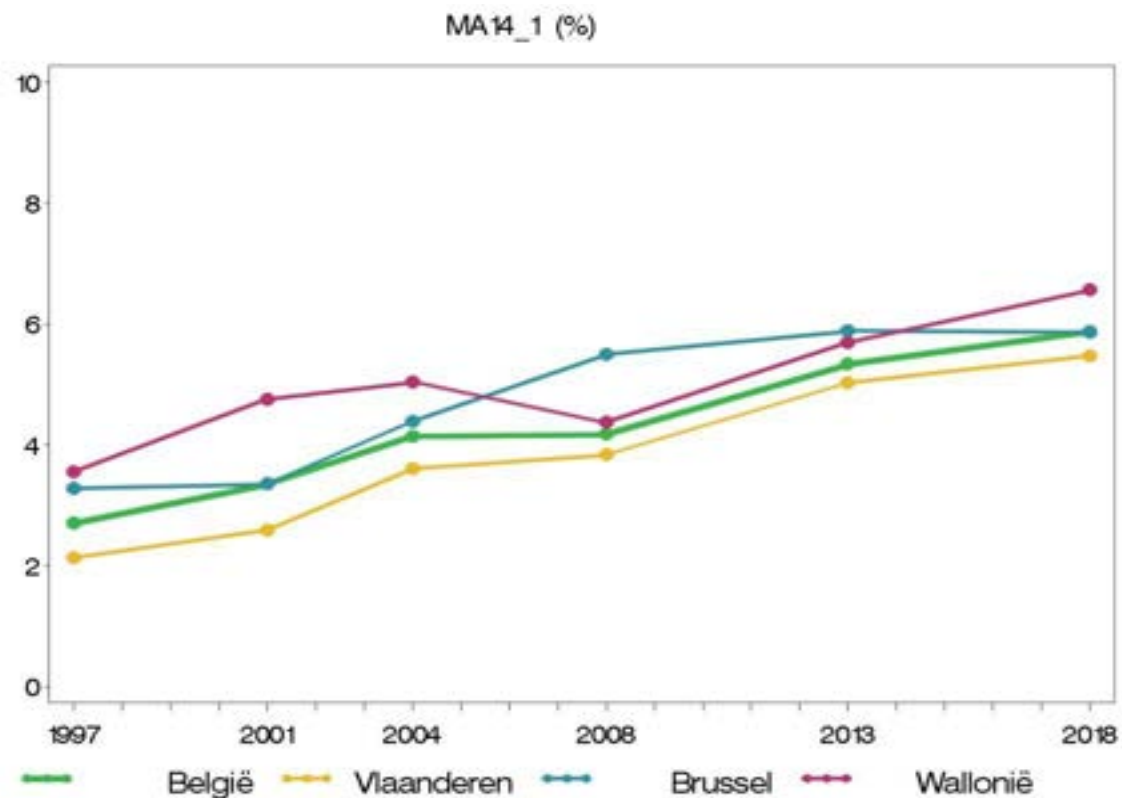


# Content of BHIS core questionnaire



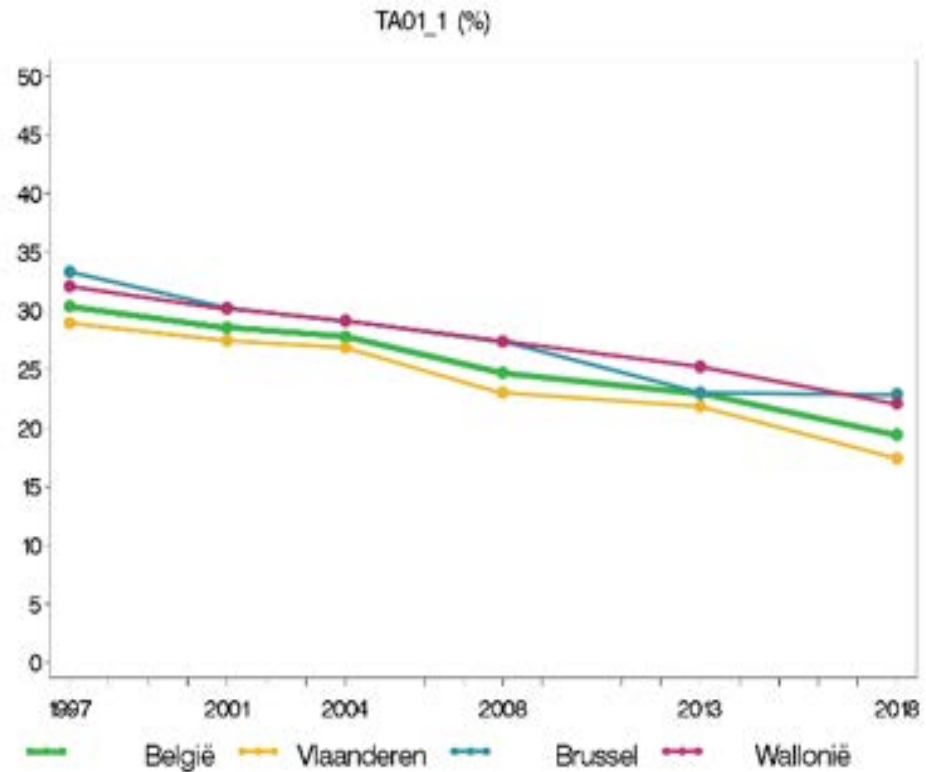
- **Comprises modules on (e.g.):**
  - chronic conditions
  - limitations
  - mental health
  - use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs
  - food consumption
  - ...
- **Enables to:**
  - monitor trends over time
  - study trends in socio-economic inequalities in health
  - respond to national and international recurrent demands (EHIS)

# Example: Percentage of the population (15+) reporting diabetes in the past year, according to year and region, Belgium 1997 - 2018

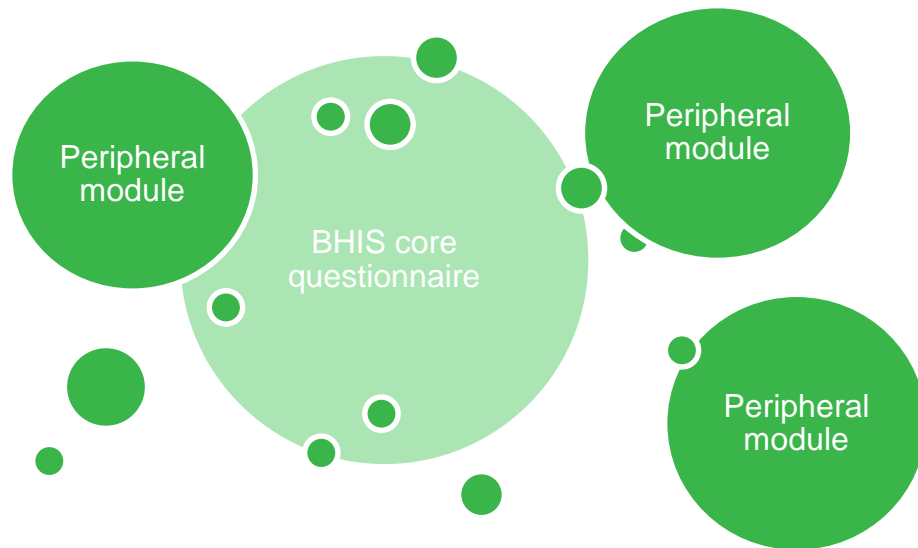




# Example: Percentage of the population (15+) that smokes daily, by region and year, Belgium 1997 - 2018

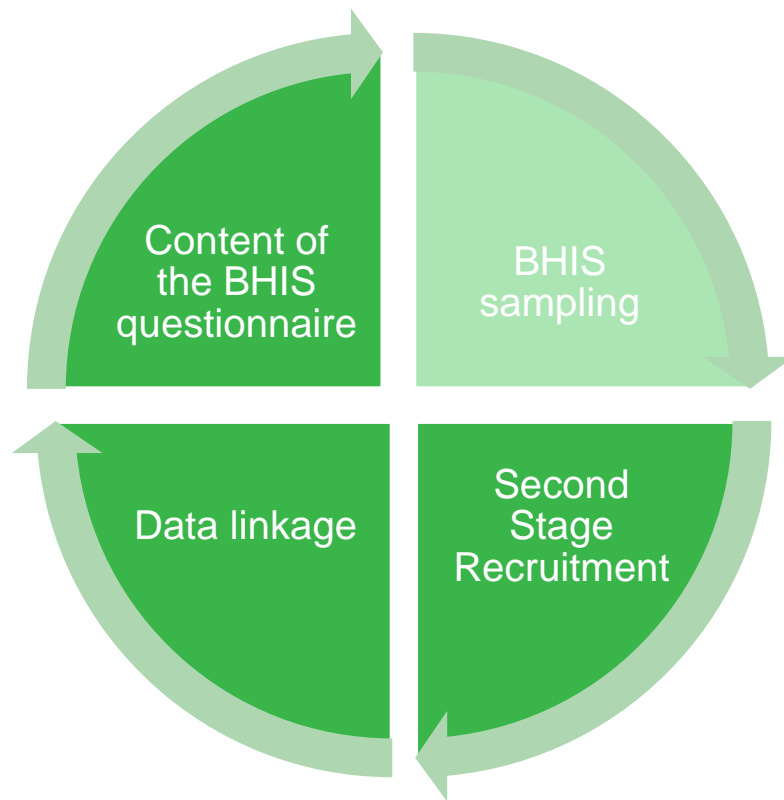


# Content of BHIS peripheral modules

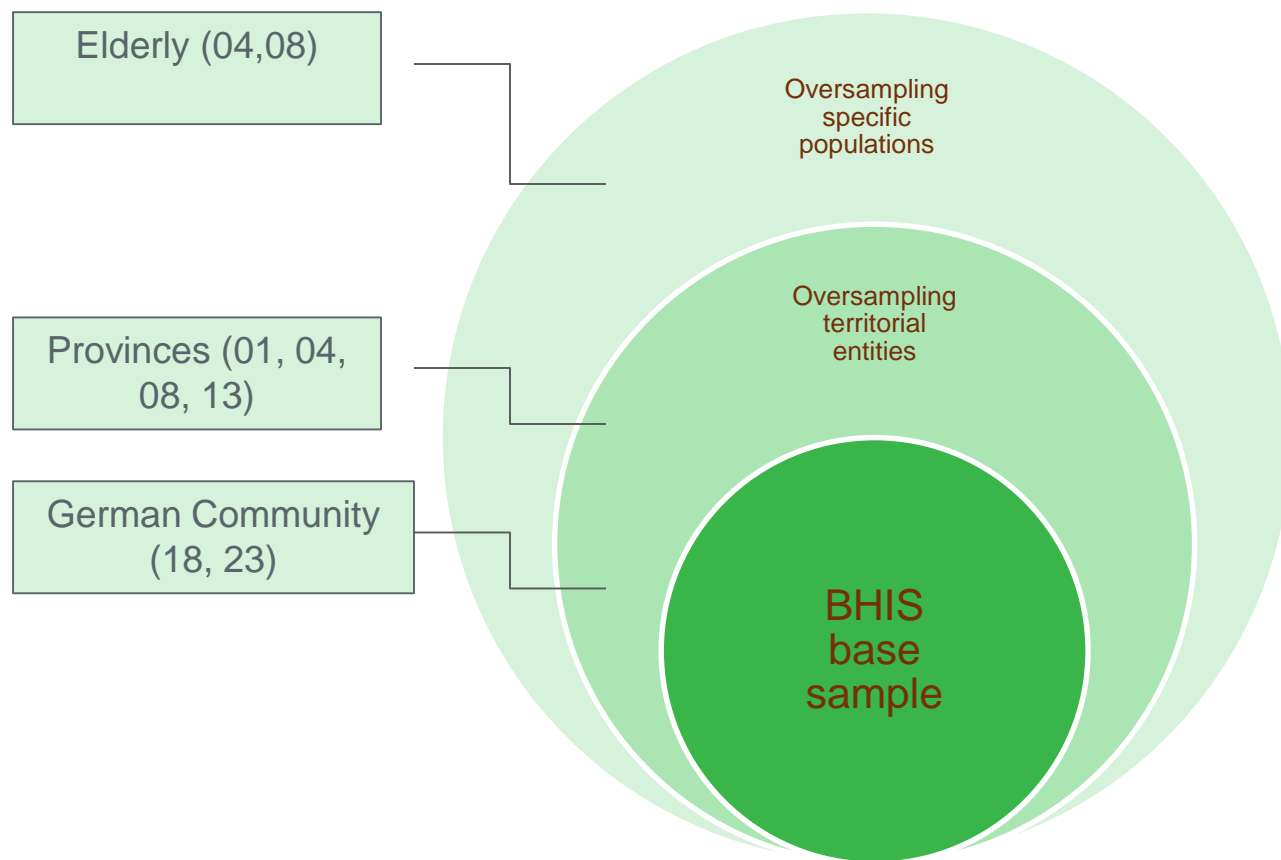


- **Comprises survey-year specific modules on (e.g.):**
  - additional health insurance (2001)
  - physical en mental characteristics of the working place (2008)
  - end of life (2008)
  - health related quality of life (2013, 2018)
  - environment (2008, 2013)
  - intra-familial violence (2013, 2018)
  - gambling (2018)
  - COVID (2023)
- **Enables to:**
  - respond to specific demands of stakeholders
  - incorporate new/actual themes

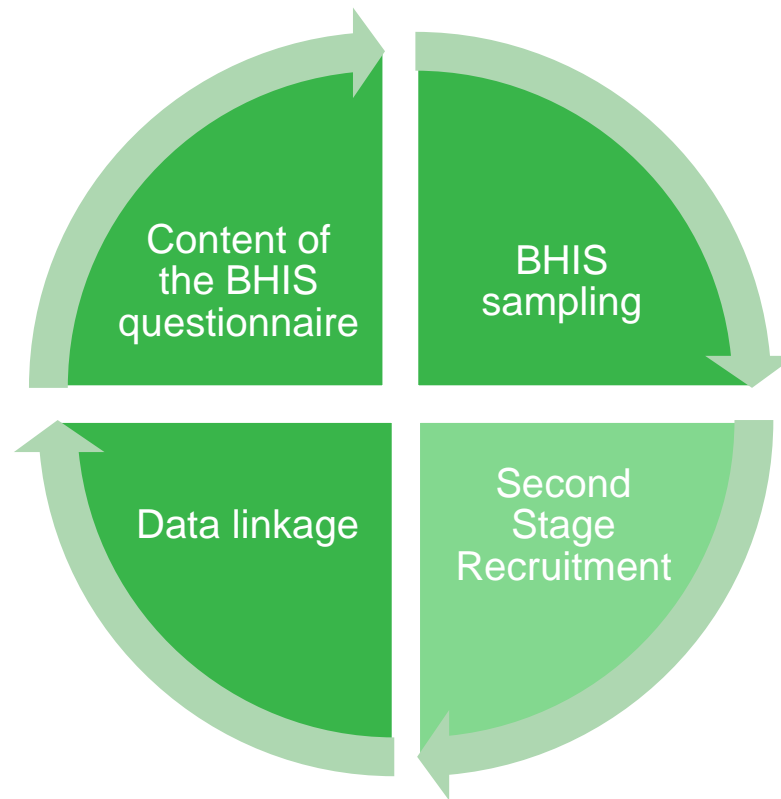
# BHIS sampling



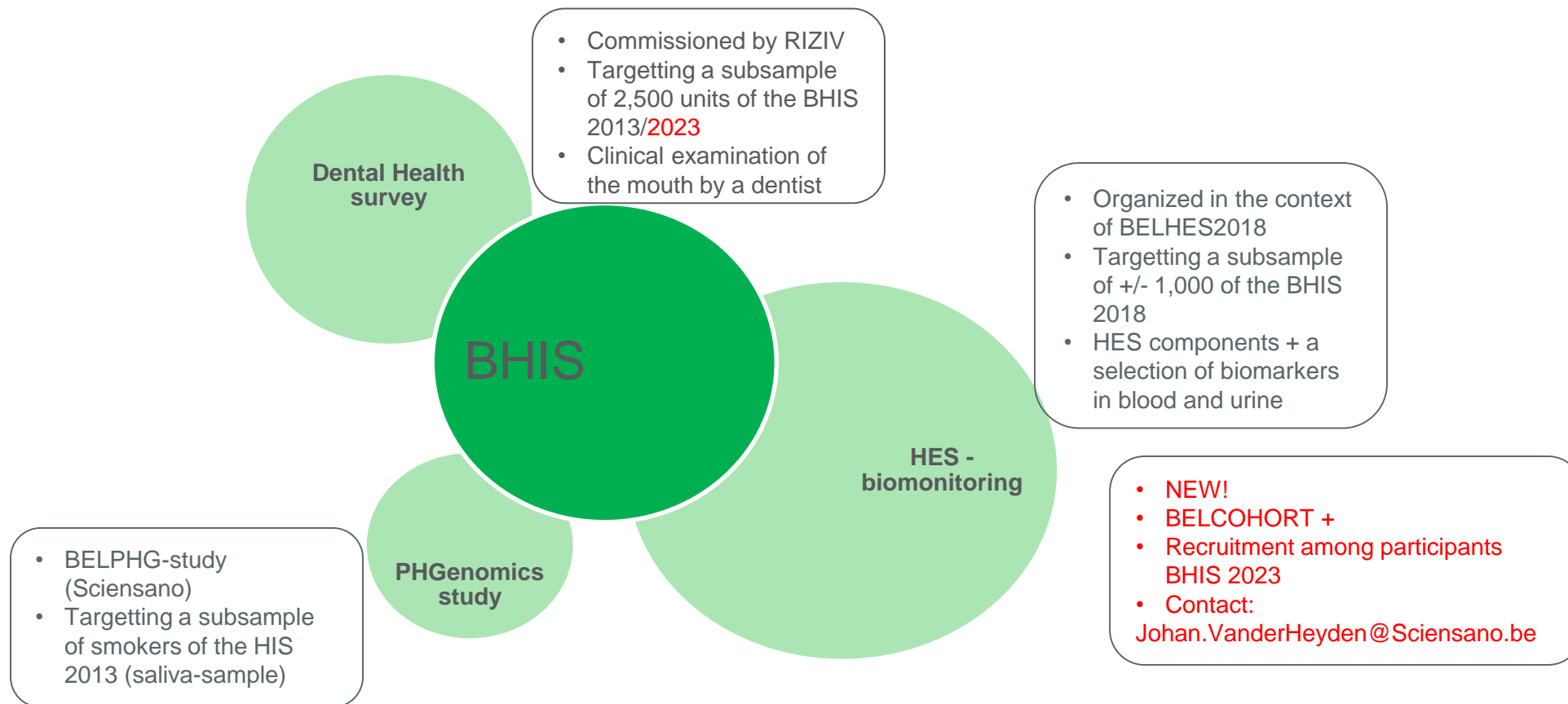
# BHIS sampling



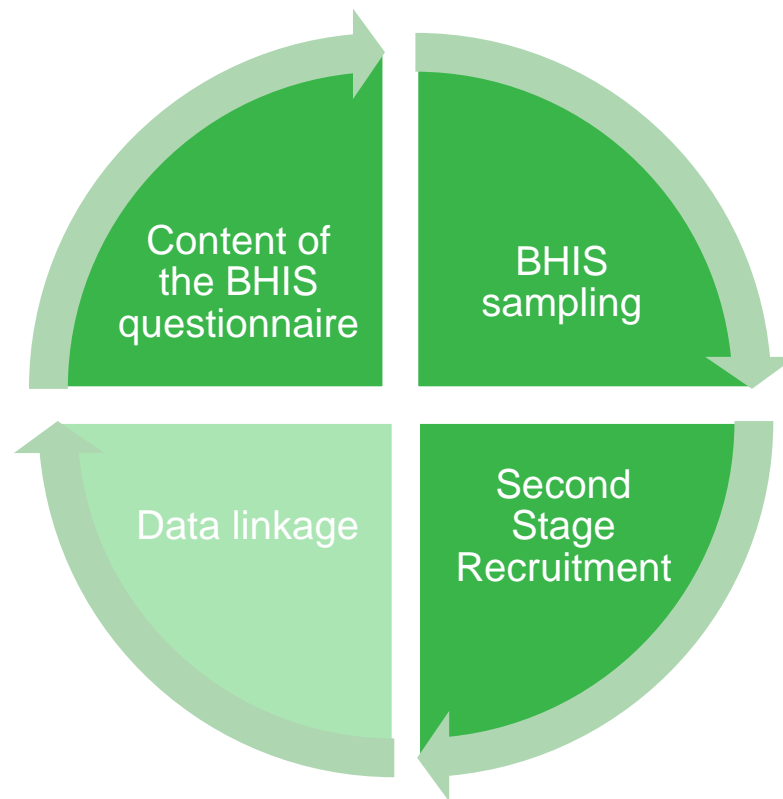
# Second stage recruitment



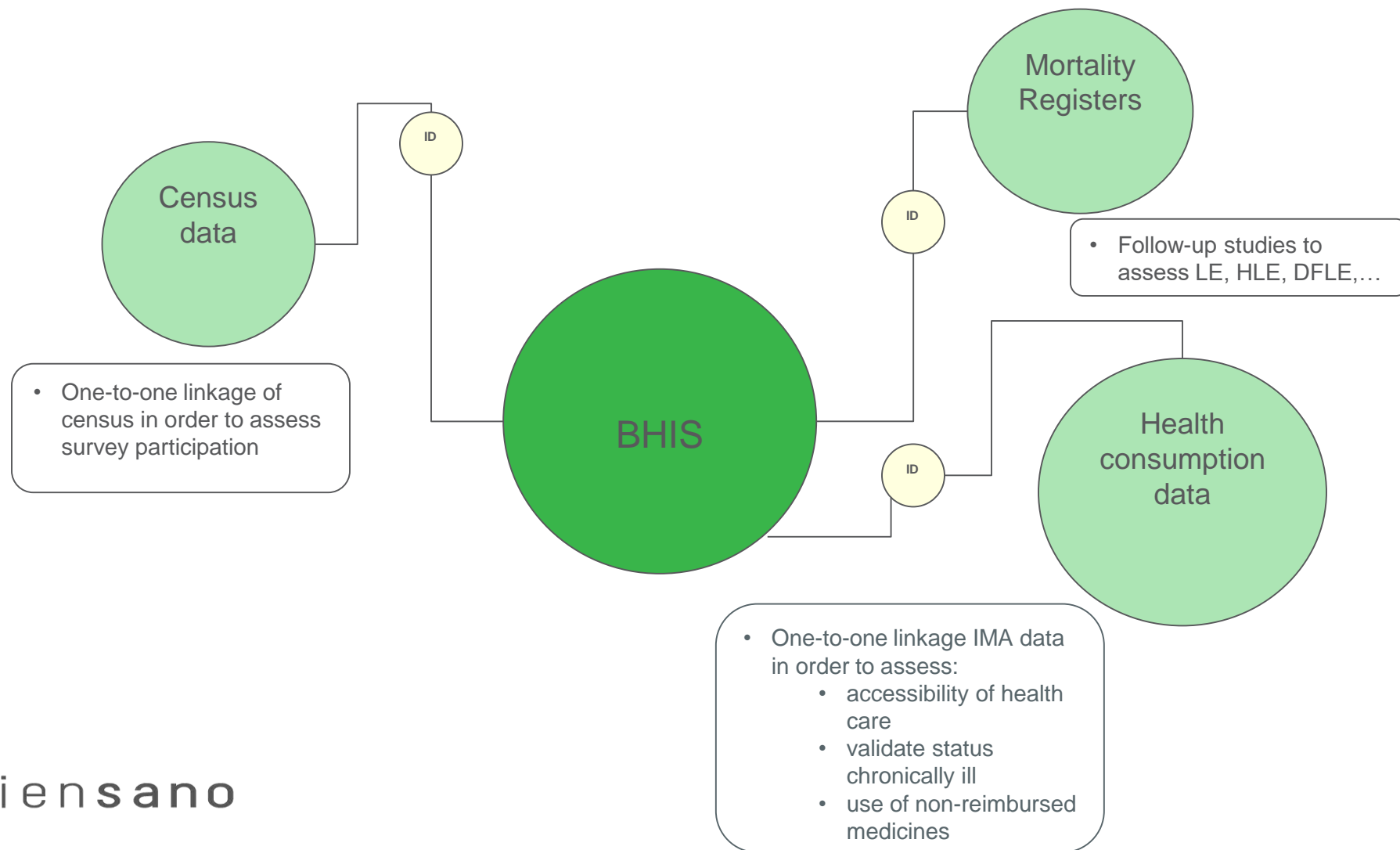
## Second stage recruitment



# Data linkage

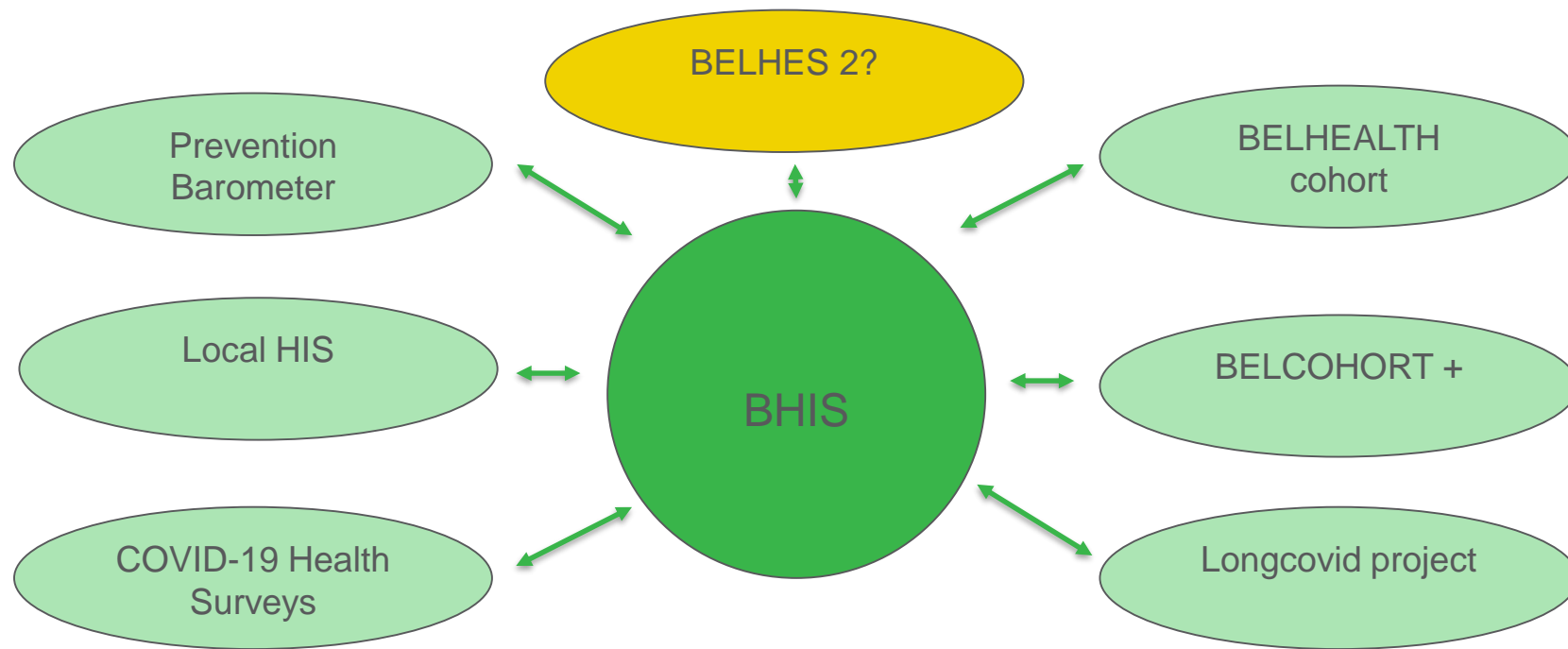


# Data linkage





# BHIS as 'mother ship'



## Dissemination of BHIS results (1)

- To the general public:
  - Descriptive, trimestral domain specific reports published in the year following the data-collection phase:
    - ✓ Standard-analyses: health indicators presented by a fixed set of background variables (age-group, gender, educational level, region, previous surveys,..).
    - ✓ <https://www.sciensano.be/en/projects/health-interview-survey>
  - Interactive analysis tool (HISIA)
    - ✓ Easy-to-use and free tool to calculate 'taylor made' results (fixed set of background variables):
    - ✓ <https://www.sciensano.be/en/projects/health-interview-survey/hisia>

## Dissemination of BHIS results (2)

- To the scientific world: secondary use of BHIS data
  - Pseudonymized database with harmonized data of all survey years (on request and after approval): <https://www.sciensano.be/en/projects/health-interview-survey#procedure-for-accessing-the-health-interview-survey-microdata>
  - Anonymized database with (some) harmonized data of all survey years (on request)
  - Scientific manuscripts team 'Health Interview Survey' – other research teams

# Threats to BHIS: the future looks bright (?)

GDPR requirements

Burden for the respondents

Turn over interviewers

Too many surveys

(dis-)trust regarding state-organized surveys

New "types" of households

Declining contactability (cell phones)

Oh, no ... not again....



THANKS !

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